

In the Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A platelet-like pigment whose particles have a length of from 2 μm to 5 μm , a width of from 2 μm to 2 μm and a thickness of from 50 nm to 1.5 μm and a ratio of length to thickness of at least 2 : 1, the particles having a core of a metallically reflecting material having two substantially parallel faces, the distance between which is the shortest axis of the core, comprising

(a), ~~optionally~~, on one parallel face of the core, an SiO_y layer wherein $0.95 < y \leq 2.0$,

(b), ~~on one parallel face of the core or, if an SiO_y layer is present, on the SiO_y layer~~, an SiO_x layer wherein $0.03 \leq x \leq 0.95$, and

(c)[[.]] on the SiO_x layer, an SiO_z layer, wherein $0.95 < z \leq 2.0$

wherein the metallically reflecting material is selected from Ag, Al, Au, Cu, Cr, Ge, Mo, Ni, Ti, Zn, alloys thereof, graphite, Fe_2O_3 and MoS_2 and the thickness of the core is from 20 to 100 nm.

2. **(currently amended)** A pigment according to claim 1, comprising

(a), ~~optionally~~, on one parallel face of the core, an SiO_y layer, wherein $0.95 < y \leq 1.80$,

(b), ~~on one parallel face of the core or, if an SiO_y layer is present, on the SiO_y layer~~, an SiO_x layer wherein $0.03 \leq x \leq 0.95$, and

(c)[[.]] on the SiO_x layer, an SiO_z layer, wherein $1.0 < z \leq 2.0$.

3-4. **(cancelled)**

5. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the SiO_x layer (b) is from 5 to 200 nm.

6. **(previously presented)** A pigment according claim 1, wherein the thickness of the SiO_y layer (a) is from 20 to 500 nm.

7. **(currently amended)** A method for producing the pigment according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:

- a) vapor-deposition of a separating agent onto a carrier to produce a separating agent layer,
- b) vapor-deposition of an Al layer onto the separating agent layer,
- c) ~~optionally~~, vapor-deposition of an SiO_y layer onto the Al layer,

- d) vapor-deposition of an SiO_x layer ~~onto the Al layer or, if present,~~ onto the SiO_y layer, wherein $0.95 \leq y \leq 1.80$,
- e) optionally, vapor-deposition of an SiO_y layer onto the SiO_x layer,
- f) dissolution of the separating agent layer in a solvent,
- g) separation of the $[(\text{SiO}_x)]$ coated aluminum flakes from the solvent.

8. **(previously presented)** A pigment obtained by the method of claim 7.

9. **(previously presented)** A composition comprising a pigment according to claim 1.

10. **(previously presented)** A paint, textile, ink-jet printing, cosmetic, coating, plastic, or printing ink composition or a glaze for ceramics and glass comprising a pigment according to claim 1.

11. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein $0.05 \leq x \leq 0.5$.

12. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 2, wherein $1.0 \leq y \leq 1.80$, and $1.4 \leq z \leq 2.0$.

13. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the core is from 40 to 60 nm.

14. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the SiO_x layer (b) is from 5 to 100 nm.

15. **(cancelled)**

16. **(previously presented)** A pigment according claim 1, wherein the thickness of the SiO_y layer (a) is from 100 to 500

17. **(cancelled)**

18. **(previously presented)** A pigment according claim 5, wherein the thickness of the SiO_y layer (a) is from 20 to 500 nm.

19. **(previously presented)** A method according to claim 7, wherein $1.0 \leq y \leq 1.80$.

20. **(cancelled)**